

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081408

FOLLOWING SENT LISBON INFO LUANDA FROM SECSTATE WASHDC
30 APR 73:

QUOTE STATE 081408

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS ESTC, PO

SUBJECT: B-26 S IN ANGOLA

REF: STATE 51535

1. AMBASSADOR THEMIDO CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY STABLED APRIL 27 TO DISCUSS SEVERAL MATTERS. FIRST THEMIDO REFERRED TO RECENT OPPOSITION CONFERENCE AT AVEIRO AND SAID HE WISHED CALL ATTENTION TO FACT GOP HAD AUTHORIZED THIS CONFERENCE AND PERMITTED PRESS COVERAGE OF IT. SAID HE ALSO WISHED INFORM US THAT AT AVEIRO YOUNG RADICALS HAD TAKEN CONTROL AWAY FROM TRADITIONAL OPPOSITION LEADERS AND THAT MANY OPPOSITION MEMBERS DID NOT AGREE WITH " COMMUNIST- INSPIRED" RESULTS OF CONFERENCE.

2. NEXT THEMIDO WISHED TO REPORT ON RECENT ELECTIONS IN OVERSEAS TERRITORIES, WHICH HE TERMED A " FIRST EXERCISE" IN POPULAR PARTICIPATION IN GOVERNMENT. SAID THAT ALTHOUGH VOTER TURN- OUT SMALL IN BOTH TERRITORIES, LARGE
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NUMBER BLACKS ELECTED, ESPECIALLY IN MOZAMBIQUE. LISBON AUTHORITIES CONSIDERED THIS A WHOLESOME DEVELOPMENT.

3. THEMIDO SAID FONMIN PATRICIO HAD SPECIFICALLY ASKED HIM INFORM US THAT GOP VERY CONCERNED OVER RECENT LOSS FIVE PLANES IN PORTUGUESE GUINEA TO SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES. PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE SITUATION IN PORTUGUESE GUINEA MUCH IMPROVED OVER PAST FEW YEARS, BUT GOP DISTURBED THAT ENEMIES RECEIVING FOR FIRST TIME SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS OBVIOUSLY OPERATED BY SKILLED PERSONNEL, WHILE PORTUGAL RECEIVES NOTHING FROM ITS FRIENDS.

4. THEMIDO SAID RECENT LOSS OF PLANES IN PORTUGUESE GUINEA CREATED INHOSPITABLE ATMOSPHERE IN LISBON FOR CONSIDERATION OF US REQUEST THAT B-26 S BE WITHDRAWN FROM AFRICA. SAID GOP WELL INFORMED OF USG VIEWS BUT FINDS IT DIFFICULT ACCEPT US SUGGESTIONS RE LIMITATIONS ON USE. PAF BOUGHT PLANES IN GOOD FAITH AND WITHOUT ANY CONDITIONS ATTACHED AND HAD SPENT FOUR YEARS RE-BUILDING THEM. THUS PAF FELT IT HAD COMPLETE OWNERSHIP. THEMIDO ADDED, HOWEVER- THAT GOP DID NOT WANT THIS MATTER TO CREATE PROBLEM IN RELATIONS WITH USG.

5. MR. STABLER SAID HE DISAPPOINTED AT THEMIDO'S RESPONSE ON B-26 S. SAID HE HAD HOPED LISBON WOULD SHOW MORE UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEM. WE VIEWED THE EXPORTATION OF THESE PLANES FROM THE UNITED STATES AS ILLEGAL. WE HAD THEREFORE REQUESTED THEIR RETURN TO THE UNITED STATES. AT THE VERY LEAST WE HOPED TO SEE THEM WITHDRAWN FROM AFRICA. IF ANY OF THESE PLANES SEEN OR SHOT DOWN IN AFRICA THEIR PRESENCE THERE WOULD BE USED AGAINST BOTH THE US AND PORTUGAL BY PEOPLE WHO DO NOT WANT TO SEE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES. WHAT IS NOW A QUESTION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BECOME AN ISSUE. HE HOPED THIS PROBLEM WOULD NOT CREATE OTHER PROBLEMS IN OUR RELATIONS, BUT HE COULD NOT BE SURE THAT IT WOULD NOT.

6. THEMIDO REITERATED THAT ALTHOUGH THE GOP FINDS IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT THE USG POSITION ON THESE PLANES,
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IT DOES NOT WISH CONFRONTATION WITH USG ON THIS MATTER. HE REFERRED AGAIN TO ATMOSPHERE CREATED BY SHOOTING DOWN OF PORTUGUESE PLANES AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL VIEW THAT PERHAPS ATMOSPHERE MIGHT CHANGE FOR THE BETTER IN A LITTLE WHILE. ROGERS UNQUOTE ROGERS

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